2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Memorandum on activities of the Kyrgyz Republic in its capacity as the depositary of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia

1. The present memorandum was prepared pursuant to paragraph 3 (g) of annex VI to the final report of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

2. In order to strengthen the non-proliferation regime and regional security, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan signed the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia in Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan, on 8 September 2006.

3. The Central Asian States — the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan — have made an invaluable contribution to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia, and to its advancement and development. Active work in this area has been carried out in various international forums, including at sessions of the United Nations General Assembly, the 2005 and 2010 Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission.

4. The United Nations General Assembly adopted resolutions 52/38 S of 9 December 1997, 53/77 A of 4 December 1998, 55/33 W of 20 November 2000, 57/69 of 22 November 2002, 61/88 of 6 December 2006, 63/63 of 2 December 2008, 65/49 of 8 December 2010 and 67/31 of 3 December 2012, and decisions 54/417 of 1 December 1999, 56/412 of 29 November 2001, 58/518 of 8 December 2003, 59/513 of 3 December 2004 and 60/516 of 8 December 2005, concerning the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia.

5. The Kyrgyz Republic was designated as depositary by the Parties to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia (article 18).

6. In accordance with article 18, the Kyrgyz Republic transmitted certified copies of the Treaty and its Protocol to all States of Central Asia and the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

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7. During the period 2006-2009, all Parties to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia ratified the Treaty. Upon receipt of the last instrument of ratification, the Kyrgyz Republic advised the Parties to the Treaty and its Protocol of the entry into force of the Treaty as from 21 March 2009 (article 15).

8. On 20 March 2009, on the eve of the official entry into force of the Treaty, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed this event in a statement circulated as an official document to delegations of States Members of the United Nations.

9. The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, together with the delegation of the Kyrgyz Republic, issued an official United Nations map showing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia.

10. Important events for the Kyrgyz Republic, in its capacity as depositary of the Treaty, were its participation in the first meeting of representatives of States parties to nuclear-weapon-free zones (Ulaanbaatar, 27-28 April 2009), the meeting of States parties to nuclear-weapon-free zones held within the framework of the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (New York, 4-5 May 2010), the sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and the work of the First Committee of the General Assembly.

11. In accordance with rule 2 of the rules of procedure to implement article 10 of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, the Kyrgyz Republic organized a series of meetings in New York of permanent representatives to the United Nations of the Parties to the Treaty as well as experts in order to determine the date and venue for the first consultative meeting.

12. The outcome of those meetings was unanimous endorsement of the proposal by Turkmenistan to hold the consultative meeting in Ashgabat.

13. The first consultative meeting of the Parties to the Treaty was held in Ashgabat on 15 October 2009. Turkmenistan chaired this meeting on the Treaty, in close collaboration with the depositary.

14. Subsequent meetings were held in Tashkent (15 March 2011), Astana (12 June 2012 and 27 June 2013) and Almaty (25 July 2014).

15. During the period 2013-2014, the Parties to the Treaty held consultations with the nuclear-weapon States under article 9, paragraph 3, of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (French Republic, People's Republic of China, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America) with a view to their signing the Protocol to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia. As a result, a ceremony for the signature of the above-mentioned Protocol by the nuclear-weapon States was held in New York on 6 May 2014. The Kyrgyz Republic is the depositary of the Protocol.

16. Pursuant to article 7, the Protocol to the Treaty enters into force for each Party to the Protocol (under article 4, the Parties to the Protocol are the French Republic, the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America) on the date of its deposit with the depositary of its instrument of ratification.

17. The French Republic ratified the Protocol to the Treaty on 17 October 2014 and deposited its instrument of ratification with the Kyrgyz Republic on 17 November 2014, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ratified the Protocol to the Treaty on 19 January 2015 and deposited its instrument of ratification with the Kyrgyz Republic on 30 January 2015.

18. The remaining nuclear-weapon States, as at 1 February 2015, have not yet ratified the Protocol.

19. On 2 December 2014, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted resolution 69/36 entitled "Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia". In the resolution, the Assembly welcomes the signing of the Protocol to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia on 6 May 2014 by the nuclear-weapon States and calls upon them to take measures for its early ratification.

20. On 25 December 2014, the Kyrgyz Republic assumed the chairmanship of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia.

21. During its chairmanship, the Kyrgyz Republic, together with the other Parties to the Treaty, intends to continue consultations with the nuclear-weapon States in order to accelerate their ratification of the Protocol to the Treaty.